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**Translation from French of the Written Opinion of the
International Search Authority for international
application No. PCT/FR2005/000659**

References :

International application No. PCT/FR2005/000659

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims 16-19, 21, 22, 25 No: Claims 1-15, 20, 23, 24
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims 16, 18, 21 No: Claims 1-15, 17, 19, 20, 22-25
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-25 No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

See separate sheet

Box No. VI Some cited documents

1. Some published documents (rules 43bis.1 and 70.10)
And/or
2. Unwritten disclosure (rules 43bis.1 and 70.9)

See form 210

Written opinion of the International Searching Authority

International Application n° PCT/FR2005000659

The following documents are referenced to in this communication:

D1: WO 02/065316 A (OTG SOFTWARE, INC) August 22, 2002;
D2: EP-A-0 886 227 (DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION; COMPAQ COMPUTER CORPORATION) December 23, 1998;
D3: US-B1-6 721 748 (KNIGHT TIMOTHY O ET AL) April 13, 2004;
D4: US 2002/143871 A1 (MEYER DAVID FRANCIS ET AL) October 3, 2002;
D5: EP-A-1 408 428 (FRANCE TELECOM) April 14, 2004;
D6: EP-A-1 280 074 (SCHNEIDER AUTOMATION) January 29, 2003;
D7: FR-A-2 715 486 (PIATON ALAIN NICOLAS) July 28, 1995;

I. **Concerning item V**

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. The present application does not meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(1), since the subject-matter of claim 1 does not conform to the novelty requirement of PCT Article 33(2).

1.1. The D1 document describes all the characteristics of this claim:

- (i) for the preamble: see for instance page 15, lines 1-17: "...keywords or the full text of the messages are added to a message index file for rapid searching of message... The record must be stored in a manner that allow individual records to be retrieved upon request..."; as well as subparagraph [0036], [0042], [0044] and [0045];
- (ii) for the characterizing part: see also the different ways disclosed in D1 to create and use the 'character strings' of the 'representation table', that correspond to the "message tags" that are added to the "index file" and used to generate the search results; see also subparagraph [0011]: "... Message Tag, which preferably comprises a string of data, using the message properties...", subparagraphs [0023] to [0028], and [0041]: "The selected properties are combined to form a single string. The string may or may not include blank spaces. The string is converted into an appropriate bit representation...".

1.2 The D2 document also describes all the characteristics of this very general claim – see particularly pages 5 to 9.

2. The same arguments apply mutatis mutandis to the object of the corresponding independent claims 23 and 24 that are therefore not novel either.
3. The dependant claims 2-15, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 25 do not contain any characteristic that, in combination with the ones from any of the claims to which they refer, define a subject matter that fulfils the requirements of the PCT in regard novelty and/or inventive step, see in particular documents D1, D2, D6 and D7 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.

4. The combination of the characteristics of claims 1, 10 and 16/17/21 is not included in the state of the art and does not result from it in an obvious way.

Regarding item VI
Some cited documents

Some published documents

Application n° Patent n°	Publication date (month/day/year)	Filing date (month/day/year)	Priority date (validly claimed) (month/day/year)
US6721748 B1	04/13/2004	05/13/2002	05/13/2002
EP1408428 A1	04/14/2004	10/09/2003	10/09/2002

The documents D3 and D5 do not belong to the state of the art in the sense of PCT articles 33(2) and (3) (see also PCT rules 64.3 and 70.10).